

CLAIMS

1. A content delivery system for delivering content over a network, comprising:

5 a subscriber serving apparatus serving a user;
a delivery server for delivering content;
and

a billing server for billing for the delivery of the content, wherein

10 the subscriber serving apparatus includes monitoring means for monitoring a data stream being delivered from the delivery server to the user, and

the billing server includes judging means for judging whether to bill or not bill the user based on
15 delivery quality of the monitored data stream, and bills the user based on the result of the judgment made by the judging means.

2. A content delivery system for delivering content over a network, comprising:

20 a subscriber serving apparatus serving a user;
a delivery server for delivering content;
and

25 a billing server for billing for the delivery of the content, wherein

the subscriber serving apparatus includes monitoring means for monitoring a data stream being delivered from the delivery server to the user, and
30 judging means for judging whether to bill or not bill the user based on delivery quality of the monitored data stream, and

the billing server bills the user based on the result of the judgment made by the judging means.

3. A content delivery system as claimed in claim 1
35 or 2, wherein

the delivery server includes means for identifying the subscriber serving apparatus serving the

user that originated a delivery request, and for sending information specifying the user and the data stream to be monitored to the subscriber serving apparatus, and

5 the subscriber serving apparatus, based on the information received from the delivery server, identifies the user and the data stream to be monitored by the monitoring means.

4. A content delivery system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, further comprising a management apparatus for
10 accepting a delivery request from the user, wherein

the management apparatus includes means for identifying the subscriber serving apparatus serving the user that originated the delivery request, and for sending information specifying the user and the data
15 stream to be monitored to the subscriber serving apparatus, and

the subscriber serving apparatus, based on the information received from the management apparatus, identifies the user and the data stream to be monitored
20 by the monitoring means.

5. A content delivery system as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the judging means includes a billing judgment table for setting a billing parameter, and determines the amount of billing to be charged to the
25 user, based on the result of the judgment of the delivery quality of the monitored data stream and the billing parameter associated therewith.